

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 SAI-01 /071 W

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P R 021608Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 274

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH FLAG INCIDENTS ON GREEK ISLANDS PROVOKE GOG STATEMENT

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. DURING THE COURSE OF THE PAST WEEKEND, TURKISH FISHERMEN HOISTED A TURKISH FLAG ON TWO SMALL, DESERTED GREEK ISLANDS IN THE SOUTHEASTERN AEGEAN, I.E. THE ISLANDS OF RO AND IPSILI WHICH ARE SITUATED DUE EAST OF RHODES. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, THE FLAGS WERE TAKEN DOWN WITHIN A FEW HOURS BY GREEK AUTHORITIES.

2. TO PUT THE MATTER IN PERSPECTIVE, THE GOG ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 1: "THE CASE SHOULD NOT BE EXAGGERATED. GREECE POSSESSES HUNDREDS OF SMALL ROCKY ISLETS, QUITE SUITABLE FOR SUCH SILLY EXHIBITIONS WHICH CAN ONLY LAST FOR A FEW HOURS AND RESEMBLE A FARCE. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT THESE TURKISH FLAGS WERE LOWERED SHORTLY AFTER THEY HAD BEEN HOISTED. THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE INCIDENTS SHOULD THINK OF THIS HUMILIATION BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO REPEAT SUCH COMIC INCIDENTS."

END UNCLASSIFIED

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BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

3. IN A REMARK TO AN EMBOFF OF SEPTEMBER 2, MFA DIRECTOR
OF TURKISH AFFAIRS MACRIS CHARACTERIZED THE INCIDENTS AS
ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF "PROVOCATIVE BEHAVIOR" ON THE
PART OF THE TURKS.

END CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, FLAG DISPLAY REGULATIONS, STATE SYMBOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ATHENS06653
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750302-0704
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750990/aaaadbvt.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH FLAG INCIDENTS ON GREEK ISLANDS PROVOKE GOG STATEMENT BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
TAGS: PFOR, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006